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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 AID-07 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 H-01 IO-14 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 SY-05
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O 082006Z APR 81 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3236
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PAN/INTAFF IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAN SALVADOR 2658

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARAS 2, 3, AND 10)

USICA FOR AR-DACHI

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO OTHER ARA AND EUR POSTS AS REQUIRED

E. O. 12065: GDS 4/8/87 (HALLMAN, WILLIAM H) OR-P
TAGS: PINT, PINS, ES
SUBJ: KILLINGS IN SOYAPANGO

1. (U) SUMMARY: AT LEAST 23 PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF APRIL 7 IN THE WORKING MAN'S SUBURB OF SAN SALVADOR, SOYAPANGO. CIRCUMSTANCES AND EYEWITNESS REPORTS INDICATE A SERIES OF PLANNED RAIDS ON HOMES IN SEVERAL DISTRICTS TO TAKE OUT SUSPECTED TERRORISTS AND KILL THEM, ALTHOUGH AN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE TREASURY POLICE (POLICIA DE HACIENDA) CLAIMS THE DEATHS TOOK PLACE AS A RESULT OF A SHOOTOUT. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF APRIL 7 A ROUNDUP OF PEOPLE TOOK PLACE WHICH ACCORDING TO ALL EYEWITNESSES INVOLVED A LARGE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF EL SALVADOR'S SECURITY FORCES. THE SALVADORAN TREASURY POLICE HAS ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE IN WHICH THAT FORCE DESCRIBES AN ACTION WHICH, ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE, INVOLVED A SINGLE SHOOTOUT ALONG THE "CALLE PRINCIPAL" OF THE MONTECARMELO AREA OF THE SOYAPANGO SUBURB OF SAN SALVADOR. THE REPORT STATED THAT THE SHOOTOUT TOOK PLACE AT 0045 IN RESPONSE TO AN ATTACK ON TREASURY POLICEMEN CONDUCTING A SEARCH AND SEIZURE OPERATION IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. EYEWITNESSES LIVING IN THE AREA HAVE EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT OTHER FORCES WERE INVOLVD, INCLUDING THE NATIONAL GUARD AND THE ARMY, ALTHOUGH ONE WOMAN SPOK TOO OF MN ORSSED IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES.

3. (U) WITNESSES ARRIVING AT THE SCENE THE FOLLOWING MORNING COUNTED 23 BODIES, WITH SOME LOCATED IN HOUSES AND OTHERS IN THE STREET. ONE HOUSE WAS GUTTED BY FIRE, EITHER BY EXPLOSION (RESIDENTS REPORTED HEARING TWO BLASTS) OR POSSIBLY BY A BULLET IGNITING SOME FLAMMABLE MATERIAL LIKE KEROSENE.

4. (U) THESE SAME EYEWITNESSES HAVE ALSO DESCRIBED RAIDS MADE AGAINST INDIVIDUAL HOUSES FROM WHICH PEOPLE WERE TAKEN AND SUBSEQUENTLY KILLED. PEOPLE FROM THE BUENA VISTA AREA, FOR EXAMPLE, SAY THAT THE BODIES OF RELATIVES OT EHRIS WERE FOUND IN THE NEARBY COLONIA SAN CARLOS. THEY ALSO DESCRIBE A SECOND LARGE NUMBER OF SHOTS WHICH TOOK PLACE AT ABOUT 0415. THESE WERE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF NUMBER 16 AND 18 OF A STREET

KNOWN AS "CALLE PRINCIPAL."

5. (U) A COLLECTION OF TWELVE 7.62 MM SPENT CARTRIDGES PICKED UP AT THE AREA SUGGESTS THAT THEY WERE SHOT FROM G-3 RIFLES. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION SHOWS THAT THE CARTRIDGES WERE OF EUROPEAN MANUFACTURE DATING FROM 1958 THROUGH 1978. TWOOTHER CARTRIDGES FROM AN M-1 CARBINE SHOW U.S. MARKINGS AND ARE BELIEVED TO DATE FROM 1976.

6. (U) THE MOST COGENT REPORT OF THE EVENTS WAS GIVEN BY A YOUNG WOMEN WHOSE LAST NAME IS ROSALES AND WHOSE BROTHER WAS TAKEN FROM THE FAMILY HOME AND SHOT ON THE STREET IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE. MS. ROSALES DESCRIBED HOW, WHILE THE FAMILY WAS SLEEPING, THREE PICKUP TRUCKS OF HEAVILY ARMED MEN STOPPED IN FRONT AND BANGED ON THE DOOR. THE MEN BECAME ANGRY WHEN THE FAMILY FAILED TO COME TO THE DOOR AT ONCE, AND BEGAN TO FIRE THROUGH THE DOOR. THE GROUP WAS LED BY ONE MAN WEARING A HOOD, WHO POINTED TO THE YOUNG WOMAN'S BROTHER, LATER TAKEN AWAY AND SHOT. ACCORDING TO ROSALES, HER BROTHER HAD NO LEFTIST TIES. "HE WAS JUST LOOKING FOR WORK." ANOTHER BROTHER OF ROSALES, ALSO AN EYEWITNESS, SAID THAT A MAN LIVING NEARBY BELIEVED TO BE HIMSELF AN EMPLOYEE OF THE SALVADORAN TREASURY POLICE WAS ALSO TARGETTED, BUT HAD NOT COME HOME TO SLEEP THAT NIGHT. THE ARMED MEN, NOT GETTING ANY RESPONSE AFTER KNOCKING ON THAT PERSON'S DOOR, ALSO OPENED FIRE ON THAT HOUSE.

7. (U) ANOTHER NEIGHBOR TAKEN FROM HIS HOME CRIED OUT SEVERAL TIMES FOR THE STREET LIGHT NEAR HIS HOUSE TO BE TURNED ON SO THAT HE COULD KNOW WHAT WAS HAPPENING. THIS PERSON WAS BEATEN, THEN KILLED BY 5 BULLETS. MS. ROSALES REPORTED THAT PRIOR TO THE ATTACK ON HER HOUSE SHE HEARD YOUNG MEN OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD OUT ON THE STREET CRYING OUT "DON'T TAKE ME."

8. PHOTOGRAPHS MADE BY BOTH THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESS AT THE SCENE SHOW SOME PEOPLE CLOTHED ONLY IN THEIR UNDERWEAR. OTHERS WERE WEARING TROUSERS BUT NO SHIRTS. THE WOMEN SHOWN IN THE PHOTOGRAPHS APPEAR ALL TO HAVE BEEN CLOTHED. ONE PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN OF A YOUNG MAN SHOT THREE TIMES IN THE CHEST WHOSE TESTICLES HAD BEEN CUT OFF AND PLACED ON TOP OF HIS BODY.

9. (U) ALTHOUGH THE TREASURY POLICE REPORT SPEAKS OF A "SHOOT-OUT", AND FROM WHAT WE HAVE BEEN TOLD SOME SMALL ARMS FIRE MIGHT HAVE COME FROM THE RAIDED HOUSES, THE BULLET HOLES POINT MORE CLEARLY TO MASSIVE FIRING BY THOSE SECURITY ELEMENTS SEEKING TO ENTER THE HOUSES.

10. (U) AN AMERICAN REPORTED TOLD US OF VISITING AN EVANGELICAL CHURCH FUNERAL THIS MORNING OF ONE OF THE VICTIMS. THE STORY TOLD HIM BY THAT FAMILY ALSO INDICATED THAT THE YOUNG PERSON HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM THE HOUSE, TRANSPORTED INTO A NEIGHBORING COLONIA AND WAS LATER DISCOVERED DEAD.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A. CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 3 JUL 1982
POSITIONS ENTERED ON EXTRACTED

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SAN SALVADOR 2658

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ACCORDING TO THIS ACCOUNT, AFTER THE HOUSE HAD BEEN ENTERED THE YOUNG MAN WAS UNABLE TO PRODUCE HIS IDENTITY DOCUMENT AND IT WAS PERHAPS FOR THIS REASON THAT HE WAS TAKEN. TWO YOUNG WOMEN PRESENT IN THE HOUSE, HOWEVER, WERE LEFT ALONE DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY TOO WERE WITHOUT IDENTITY DOCUMENTS.

11. (U) ANOTHER ACCOUNT IS TO THE EFFECT THAT THERE WERE MARKS ON THE THUMBS OF SEVERAL OF THE VICTIMS AS THOUGH THEIR HANDS HAD BEEN BOUND BEFORE THEIR BEING KILLED. ONE VICTIM, THE BROTHER OF MS. ROSALES, APPEARED IN PHOTOGRAPHS WITH HIS SHIRT ON BUT ALSO TO HAVE A TEESHIRT AROUND HIS NECK AS THOUGH HIS HEAD MIGHT HAVE BEEN COVERED AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH